

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02 H-02

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 IO-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 FDRE-00 PC-01 /095 W

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R 171148Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 204

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PARIS FOR OECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, XY

SUBJ: VISIT OF DAC CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS TO NIAMEY

1. DAC CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS PAID COURTESY CALL MORNING MARCH 12
ON MINISTER OF RURAL ECONOMY CAPTAIN BAYERE MOUSSA TO DISCUSS
HIS PRESENTATION TO FORTHCOMING CILSS MEETING IN NIAMEY.

2. WILLIAMS EXPLAINED THAT PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS
TO ATTEND CILSS MEETING AT INVITATION OF CILSS REGIONAL
COORDINATOR DAKOURE AND TO BROACH SUBJECT OF SOME FORM OF
INFORMAL COORDINATION BETWEEN SAHEL AND DONOR COUNTRIES.
WILLIAMS EMPHASIZED THAT ENVISAGED "CLUB DES AMIS DU SAHEL"
WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY ATTEMPT TO SUPPLANT CILSS' OR OTHER
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REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS' ROLE OF COORDINATING SAHELIAN STATES'

ASSISTANCE NEEDS BUT WOULD BE FORUM FOR DISCUSSIONS OF LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT NEEDS, FOR INFORMAL ANALYSIS OF HOW WELL ASSISTANCE WAS WORKING AND FOR COORDINATING MULTINATIONAL FINANCING OF MAJOR PROGRAMS.

3. MINISTER BAYERE MOUSSA RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO WILLIAMS' MISSION FROM GON POINT OF VIEW. HE WELCOMED SUCH INFORMAL CONTACTS HIMSELF BUT HAD DOUBTS ABOUT HOW CILSS MIGHT REACT. CILSS WOULD REQUIRE, HE THOUGHT, BEFORE FORMAL AND DEFINED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ITSELF AND DAC. CURRENT MALAISE IN CILSS WAS RESULT OF MEMBER STATES DEALING DIRECTLY WITH DONORS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. THIS WAS NORMAL, MINISTER SAID, SINCE CILSS MOVED TOO SLOWLY AND WHEN URGENT PROBLEMS AROSE IT WOULD INEVITABLY BE BYPASSED. CILSS' RAISON D'ETRE LIES RATHER WITH LONGER TERM DEVELOPMENT WHICH INVOLVES FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND PREPARING FINANCING PACKAGES.

4. IN GENERAL, MINISTER GAVE WILLIAMS IMPRESSION THAT WHILE PUBLICLY NIGER WOULD SUPPORT CILSS, GON WOULD TAKE A PRAGMATIC APPROACH OF DEALING DIRECTLY WITH DONORS ON EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND TREATING INFORMALLY WITH DONORS OR A "CLUB DES AMIS" FOR OTHER DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE QUESTIONS.

5. MINISTER CONCLUDED WITH STATEMENT HE WELCOMED WILLIAMS NOT ONLY AS DAC CHAIRMAN BUT ALSO AS FORMER REPRESENTATIVE OF US PRESIDENT WHO VISITED SAHEL IN 1973 TO INSPECT DROUGHT SITUATION. MINISTER REITERATED NIGER'S DEBT TO US FOR CARRYING "PRACTICALLY THE WHOLE WEIGHT" OF ASSISTING NIGER DURING LAST YEAR'S DROUGHT. HECK

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